

Vintage Whine

It's All In The Game

By Kate Gilderdale
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As I totter towards my dotage in sensible shoes, I find myself mentally revisiting the romantically stunted days of my early youth, when all the boys I fancied fancied other people and all the ones who fancied me looked more like Mike Duffy than Elvis Presley, who was my idol *du jour*.

Back then it was all about the package and nothing about inner beauty or intelligence, which is why I fell for Trevor. Come to think of it, things haven't changed that much since. Trevor had hair that was so blond it was almost white, and his nickname was Omo, after a British detergent with the tagline 'Omo adds brightness to whiteness.' He wore black drainpipe jeans and a tight-fitting black sweater with dashing red horizontal stripes across the chest.

He owned five racing bikes and spent a lot of time zooming up and down Woodford High Street while girls sighed with admiration, hoping he would stop and chat them up. When I finally met him, I discovered he had all the charisma of Joe Oliver and wasn't even all that good looking close up.

That was the end of a beginningless romance, which had also caused me to date his best friend Colin in a craven

attempt to wangle an introduction to the main attraction. Not only did I rapidly lose interest in Omo, but I was now stuck with the hapless Colin, whose propensity to slather Brylcreem all over his head made his skin break out and his hair unpleasantly greasy to the touch.

After I extricated myself from Colin's cloying devotion, I met a friend of my brother's who seemed quite presentable, but naturally he was going out with someone else. He, in turn, had a friend called Phillip who was several inches shorter than me which ruled him out from the start, in my mind at least.

He was nothing if not persistent however, and one day he called me at home. When my father answered the phone and asked who was calling, he lost his nerve and replied, in a tremulous voice several octaves higher than usual, "It's Susan."

My father wasn't fooled and I wasn't about to start dating a boy named Sue, especially one whose head only came up to the top of my ear. Once again I was left palely loitering while the hot girls like Lesley and Veronica were fighting off the attentions of the young and godlike.

Veronica and I attended the church youth club, which is where I first met Dave, a fresh faced boy with an

American-style crew cut. This instantly made him a chick magnet in the days when US hunks ruled the airwaves and the silver screen. Until he caught my eye, however, Veronica had never shown the remotest interest in Dave, whose other claim to fame was that he was the youth group's ping pong champion.

Given my aversion to all manifestations of the sporting life, it is a measure of my nascent adoration that I actually began to play ping pong, in a futile attempt to connect with him. But Veronica quickly spotted an opportunity to score one over her 'best friend' and another fledgling romance bit the dust.

It's a cruel world, but I finally met Mr. Right (aka Wallethead), when I got a job at Yorkshire Television. Love was in the air, and he was a lot taller than me. One evening, after a triumphant afternoon at the wicket, he cornered me outside the ladies loo at West Byfleet Cricket Club and popped the question.

Never was a girl more romantically wooed and won.

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Evergreen To Host Healthy Life Workshop

Hospice program offers support for individuals and caregivers

Managing your health when dealing with a serious, life-threatening or chronic condition is not easy, but it is key to having better quality of life.

Evergreen, the community hospice which has served Stouffville and surrounding areas for more than 25 years, will host *Living a Healthy Life*, a program developed by Stanford University. The six week workshop is considered highly effective in chronic disease prevention and management, and has been adopted in many parts of Canada and around the world.

Living a Healthy Life is already offered at many locations in York Region by other organizations, but Evergreen's sessions will be open specifically to those with a life-threatening illness or their caregivers.

"We were looking for a program to bridge a gap in services," said Jan Pearce, Evergreen's executive director. "Whether the diagnosis is cancer, heart disease, kidney failure or neurological disorders, we find so many people struggle to manage their symptoms, side effects of treatments, stress and anxiety, and need help to find a new balance and perspective in their lives."

The first session will be held on May 5 from 2 to 4:30 p.m., with space generously provided by the Marleigh Residence in Unionville. After the initial six weeks, Evergreen will supply ongoing support for those who attend and will offer the *Living a Healthy Life* program on a regular basis.

There is no charge for the program, but registration is required. For more details call 416-499-2185 or email info@evgcares.org.



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